



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## ***Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses***

**Sacramento, CA** - Small, non-farm businesses in 40 Arkansas counties, four Louisiana parishes, six Mississippi counties, one Oklahoma county, two Tennessee counties and one Texas county may now apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by adverse weather conditions, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for economic losses that are attributable to the following incident dates and adverse weather conditions:

Small businesses in the Arkansas counties of **Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Pope, Van Buren** and **Yell** are eligible to apply for these loans due to the rainfall, high winds, tornadoes and lightning resulting from a line of storms on November 27, 2005 in Conway County, Arkansas.

Small businesses in the Arkansas counties of **Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Conway, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Grant, Hempstead, Howard, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Logan, Lonoke, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Newton, Perry, Phillips, Poinsett, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Searcy, Sevier, St. Francis, Union, Van Buren, White, Woodruff** and **Yell**; the neighboring Louisiana parishes of **East Carroll, Morehouse, Union** and **West Carroll**; the Mississippi counties of **Bolivar, Coahoma, DeSoto, Issaquena, Tunica** and **Washington**; the Oklahoma county of **McCurtain**; the Tennessee counties of **Shelby** and **Tipton**; and the Texas county of **Bowie** are eligible to apply due to the excessive rainfall, high winds, tornadoes and lightning resulting from Tropical Storm Rita on September 24, 2005 in the Arkansas counties of Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Conway, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Lonoke, Monroe, Phillips, Pope, Prairie, St. Francis and Woodruff.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared these disasters at the request of Governor Mike Huckabee.

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For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).

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SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

For information and application forms call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Mail completed applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **October 10, 2006**.